

- As Casy goes to jail, “On his lips there was a faint smile and on his face a curious look of conquest.”
- Read what your peers wrote about this moment and why they think Casy is smiling. (Read them all, one at a time, aloud as a group)

- Casy is almost free now. He was without hope before. He has no family, no home, and no future. He doesn't care what happens to him as long as it means that the Joads can get to California safely. Since Casy is arrested, Tom is in the clear. I suspect that Casy sympathized with Tom when he told the former that he was a convict. Casy had only the Joads for family, and as long as they're safe, he is happy. (Jack Tingey)
- Irony! I love how you state (correctly) that Casy is almost free . . . now that he is going to jail! In a time of moral uncertainty, this paradox represents how far from our usual sense of ethics society has fallen. I think Jim, being the thinker he is, understands this. His “faint smile” and “curious look of conquest” perfectly capture the muddled morality of his place and time. (me, to Jack Tingey)*
- Maybe Casy finally felt that he had paid for his sins and that he had finally done a good deed in his life and he was determined to see it through. (Nathaniel Porter)
- Casy has been thinking through the whole book what the purpose of life is and moral values. He finally has the chance to do something he truly believes is good. . . Not only is he helping them but he is standing up for moral values that have been pushed away in this crisis. His smile is a look of victory for himself and a feeling of satisfaction that he has finally done something right. (Abby Warner)
- Casy had just taken a major blow for Tom, and was very proud of his action (Sam Hopkins)
- Casy realizes what good he did in that action, and he isn't worried for himself (Stephanie Whitlock)
- Casy didn't feel like he had anyone left in the world and that he didn't have any way to help. He was smiling because he felt like he had done something important and helpful (Samantha Steed)
- Regardless, he feels he has not been able to fully contribute to the family and in a realistic sense he truly has not. However, in this action he does. . . If such a sense of purpose were to be dawned on you, I am sure there would be reminiscences of a smile. He is overjoyed at the sense of purpose that he has discovered for himself causing him to express his emotions in a small smirk. (Aline Bustios)
- Finally the preacher has done something of worth. A few times we have heard the preacher talk of how he's just being a burden, but this selfless act allows the preacher to be at ease. (Keeley Heyer)
- Casy fulfilled his assignment as a preacher by sacrificing himself in order for Tom to stay with his family. (Zackery Hodgson)
- Casy cannot control anything in California, but to fool the law is a private victory for Casy. (Olivia Kirk)
- I think that there was a faint smile on his lips because he was doing the right thing. He was going to take the blame. He knew what he was doing was the right thing but it was not at the same time. Taking the blame for someone is a noble thing to do but it is not always the right thing. He had a curious look because he did not know what he was getting himself into but to him it was the right thing. (Natalie Hopes)

- m) The way that Steinbeck used the word "conquest" this is used to explain that this was not a simple triumph without any costs. . . . Whatever Casy's feelings towards going to jail were, he was willing to sacrifice for the welfare of the Joad family. (Sarah Jensen)
- n) He somehow feels that there could be something better than what he had been through. Casy also realizes the selfless thing he has done for the Joads and then realizes that he is becoming part of the family. (Kyra Johnson)
- o) He is pleased that he is able to help people, but he is worried about going to jail . . . Because he is such a good guy he won't regret making this decision and the smile on his face is not to mock anyone nor is it a sarcastic smile but he is genuinely proud of himself for doing something good for someone else (Tia Johnson)
- p) It's so simple, yet so profound. This one victory against the unrelenting police force gives him a slight satisfaction, and hope that maybe they can beat them in the end. That maybe, the "Okies" will finish strong. That maybe, this is not a hopeless cause. (Caroline Karren)
- q) So, when he sacrificed himself for Tom he knows that he has done something right and something that he is proud of and that is what brings a smile to his face. Also, he has finally found something worth sacrificing himself for. He is a kind of hero without something to fight for so when he realizes what he wants to do it sort of changes his way of thinking and drives him to protect this family that he has come to know so well (Sydney Parker)
- r) Casy normally fades into the background and does not usually speak up or share his opinion unless he is asked for it. Casy stood up to the police and fought for something, sacrificing himself, in order to help the Joads survive. As a preacher he had to act in a very reserved manner and felt restricted by what he could say and do. Now that he no longer believes himself to be a preacher, the thought is liberating and now that he has acted without thought to what might result, Casy feels as though he has won a victory over his old self. (Cassidy Pinnock)
- s) He makes his own set of principles during this disaster with which he finds comfort while facing the reality of his band's indisputably difficult predicament. He has cast his lot with the Joads and at this moment has found a way to help them, as he sees helping others as the most important thing a person can do and also believes that he has little importance. As far as the officers are concerned, Casy is being punished for his crime; yet despite this, Casy is smiling. He smiles out of victory, as the law enforcement is being unjust to the unemployed and by going to jail in place of Tom, he is winning a small victory for the "Okies" he came with. He defeats injustice and wrong by sacrificing his physical freedom (Mathew Smith)
- t) I think that Casy feels good about what he did because he continually was feeling guilty about taking so much from the Joads and giving nothing back. (Amanda Jones)
- u) Despite the consequence, he is proud to have made the sacrifice. (Ethan Nelson)
- v) [Casy smiles] because he shows how corrupt the system is. (Adam Vanek)

GROUP MEMBERS:

PERIOD: 1A 2A 1B 3B

- In the novel's last sentence, Rosasharn's "lips came together and smiled mysteriously."
- **Take TEN of the sentences above and re-write them about Rosasharn.** Imagine you're creating a Mad Lib at first (take out any nouns, verbs, adjectives, or adverbs that are specific to Casy and his situation); then fill in the "blanks" with words specific to this last moment in the novel.

	Original	Revision
1.	(letter)	
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		
9.		
10.		